EPI Update for Friday, October 4, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Increase in syphilis cases continues
- HIV and AIDS Administrative Code update
- Outbreaks of Cryptosporidium (from summer to fall activities)
- Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Increase in syphilis cases continues

The number of reported syphilis cases continues to increase in lowa. The increase in early syphilis cases (which include the primary, secondary, and early latent stages) is of greatest concern because these cases are very infectious. Eighty-four early syphilis cases have been reported in lowa so far this year. In all of 2012, 81 cases were reported, which was a substantial increase from 2011 when 31 cases were reported. Clearly, this increasing trend is continuing.

It is critical that persons exposed to syphilis be promptly treated, not only to prevent further transmission, but also because having any STD (including syphilis) greatly increases one's chances of acquiring or transmitting HIV. All sexual partners should be treated, regardless of test results because persons exposed within the 90 days preceding the diagnosis of primary, secondary, or early latent syphilis in a sex partner might be infected even if seronegative.

The recommended treatment for early syphilis is 2.4 million units of long-acting benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin L-A), delivered intramuscularly, and given in a single dose. Syphilis can be transmitted by any type of sexual contact, including oral, vaginal, or anal. Gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are the most disproportionately impacted populations for syphilis in Iowa.

All confirmed cases of syphilis must be reported to IDPH by both the medical provider who ordered the tests and the laboratory that performed the testing.

For more information on syphilis, visit www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/default.htm

HIV and AIDS Administrative Code update

The department has submitted a major update to the chapter of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC 641 Chapter 11) that governs the public health aspects of HIV/AIDS. Because the revisions were substantial, the department has chosen to strike the entire chapter and to submit a completely new draft. The new chapter includes rules for the following:

 HIV testing and reporting, including obtaining consent and providing post-test counseling;

- training programs for hospice providers, home health aides, respite care providers, and emergency and law enforcement personnel;
- partner notification services;
- occupational exposures to pathogens for health care workers;
- testing of convicted or alleged sexual-assault offenders and victims;
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program eligibility and processes.

For the most part, the changes conform the Iowa Administrative Code to changes that had been made previously to Iowa Code, but the draft rules also include important clarifications on the requirements of current Iowa law. The new rules should not require any new action(s) by health care providers, case managers, or local public health, unless there was a provision of Iowa law of which a provider was unaware.

The draft is available for review and comments, and may be accessed www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/ACO/IAC/LINC/ARC.1044C.pdf. Comments will be accepted until October 22, 2013. Questions or comments may be addressed to Randy Mayer, Chief, Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis at Randy Mayer, and Hepatitis at Randy Mayer, Chief, Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis at Randy Mayer, Chief, Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis at Randy Mayer, Chief, Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis at Randall.Mayer@idph.iowa.gov.

Outbreaks of Cryptosporidium (from summer to fall activities)

As reported last week, Crypto cases are decreasing, but continue at higher than normal levels in Iowa. While many of this summer's cases reported pool exposures, the cases occurring this fall are reporting a wide variety of exposures; for example, a recent cluster of illnesses occurred among a preschool class that visited a local farm. While on the farm, the children petted cows and ate snacks. The children did use hand sanitizer before eating; however, hand sanitizers are not particularly effective against Crypto. Please continue to encourage handwashing with soap and water whenever possible.

For more information on cryptosporidium, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Cryptosporidium

Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update

The new issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available at www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/, and scroll down.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

<u>HSEEP and Exercise Design Review</u> October 29, 2013 at 8:00 – 11:45 a.m. (lunch provided), University of Iowa College of Public Health, Room C217. Homeland Security's HSEEP and Exercise Design Review course is designed as a refresher training for individuals who have completed the initial HSEEP training and will cover exercise design, exercise conduct and evaluation, types of exercises and HSEEP methodology used in developing exercises funded by most federal grant programs. To register, visit www.training-source.org/event/ no later than Thursday, October 24th.

2013 Influenza Teleconference/Webinar October 22, 2013, noon -1:00 pm. An update on influenza activity, antiviral medications, vaccine, laboratory testing, and the statewide

surveillance. Participate by teleconference, webinar, or both; register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013InfluenzaTeleconferenceWebinar.

Have a healthy and happy (and cooler) week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology lowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736